

420 York Road.

That Towson had an important commercial center during the Victorian era is proven by the many buildings along York Road which exhibit physical features of that period. Many of the buildings such as this one at # 420 were originally designed to have a shop on the first level with a living space above.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Collings House

AND/OR COMMON

420 York Road Growin' Green, Inc**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

420 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

A. J. Wayne Jackson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.NewsCourts Building - Recording Division, land RecordsLiber #: 975Folio #: 294

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE Fall, 1977

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

420 York Road is a two story brick building of common bond pattern. The roof is flat. The basic layout is rectangular.

The west facade is 2 bays wide. There is a 1 story projection also 2 bays wide. The storefront is on this projection. The roof of the projection has slightly overhanging eaves with a series of dentils below the eaves. On the second story there are two 8/8 sash windows. These have plain trim and flat arches of wood. There is a heavy cornice and deeply overhanging eaves on the second story. The cornice is bracketed. Starting at the northern end, there is a large heavily carved bracket, five small and less ornate brackets, another large bracket, five more small brackets, and a final large bracket on the southern corner.

Number 420 sits flush with the building to the north. Its eaves, however, overhang slightly above this neighboring building's roof. On the south side, the building faces what used to be an alley. This has since been enclosed. There was a door into this enclosed alley, but it has since been blocked in. The enclosure is 1 story tall, leaving the second story separate from the neighboring building.

The cornice and eaves of both the projection and of the main block continue slightly around on to the south facade. The dentils continue on the lower cornice, and the second story cornice is decorated with two large brackets on either side of a small bracket. Lateral tension rods with S-brackets are noticeable on this facade.

On the second story of this southern facade there is a 6/6 sash window and a door, reached by an exterior staircase. At the top of the stairs is a landing, protected by a shed roof. Next to this landing are two exterior chimneys.

A cinder block projection, 3 bays deep and 1 story high, projects south from the main block. The enclosed alley ends at the point the projection begins. Windows of the projection have been blocked in.

On the east facade, there is a door on the northern end of the projection. Windows here have also been blocked in. On the second story there is a 6/6 sash window and a door.

Interior

The basement is a full basement but with a much lower ceiling than most encountered in Towson. There is a crawl space under the cinder block addition. At the western end of the basement, walking area is limited to a walkway about 3 feet across flanked on either side by brick platforms which stand about 2 feet high. The foundations are of uncoursed stone. Timbers at the northern end appear to have been through a fire. There is evidence of windows in the southern wall and in an interior partition about in the center of the house. This window is now bisected by another interior wall.

Virtually no original material remains on the first story. An antique radiator with a pressed floral pattern sits in the hallway. There is evidence of a transom over the door which has since been blocked in.

More original material has remained on the second story. The hall and bathroom are paneled with tongue and groove boards. Most doors are 4-panel doors and several have knobs with a pressed floral pattern. Doorways have simple mouldings. The door to the closet has a door with four raised panels. There is no evidence, but speculation suggests that an interior stairway may have been housed in what is now the cupboard.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**☐ PREHISTORIC☐ 1400-1499☐ 1500-1599☐ 1600-1699☐ 1700-1799☐ 1800-1899☒ 1900-☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC☐ AGRICULTURE☒ ARCHITECTURE☐ ART☐ COMMERCE☐ COMMUNICATIONS**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING☐ CONSERVATION☐ ECONOMICS☐ EDUCATION☐ ENGINEERING☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT☐ INDUSTRY☐ INVENTION☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE☐ LAW☐ LITERATURE☐ MILITARY☐ MUSIC☐ PHILOSOPHY☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT☐ RELIGION☐ SCIENCE☐ SCULPTURE☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN☐ THEATER☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

420 York Road is significant for both its architectural detailing and for its documentation of another era in Towson's history. This building is also representative of the constructive reuse of an older building.

The second story is a typical example of a Victorian commercial building. The flat roof, cornice and brackets are all characteristic of this type of building. The storefront on the first story appears to be less modern than others in the block. The use of the dentils on this front is a continuation of a cornice design begun during the Greek Revival and that remained popular throughout the 19th century.

This building, along with other buildings on the block, are visual documents of the past streetscape of Towson. It helps to make clear the appearance of the downtown business district at the turn of the century. In this way, number 420 is a piece of living history -- indicative of the past and a part of the present.

The front facade of the building has been handled sensitively with a view to conserving and making use of the old materials. The juxtaposition of the old and the new is not incongruous -- rather, complementary. The continued use of this building and its main facade is a fine example of the architectural compatibility of the old and the new, when carefully designed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Various land records (see title search)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Druscilla Null

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson/Goucher College

DATE

1/26/78

STREET & NUMBER

Dulaney Valley Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

OWNERS

LIBER/FOLIO

Present Owner. A. J. Wayne Jackson

(LR 975/294)

Bought property from Thomas W. Offutt, Jr. by deed dated June 11, 1936.

II. Thomas W. Offutt, Jr.

(WR 21/283)

Inherited property from Thomas W. Offutt, Sr.

III. Thomas W. Offutt, Sr.

(LR 414/341)

Bought property from Noah E. Offutt, attorney for William Lee by deed dated July 15, 1913.

IV. William A. Lee

(MR 324/501)

Received mortgage on property from Samuel Collings, Jr. by mortgage dated September 4, 1909.

V. Samuel Collings, Jr.

(LR 265/ 323)

Bought property from C. Harris Collings by deed dated November 17, 1902.

VI. C. Harris Collings

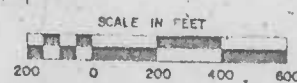
Inherited property from Samuel Collings Sr.

VII. Samuel Collings, Sr.

(LR 62/169)

Bought property from John Rutter by deed dated April 1, 1869

BA-1461



DEPT OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION

MAP N
70A



BA-1461

420 YORK RD.
W. FACADE

W. NIELD
9/78



BA-1461

#420 and #418 YORK RD.

W. FACADE

W. NIELD

9/78



BA-1461

#420 and #418 YORK RD.
W. FACADE - DETAIL

W. NIELD
9/78